

Harlow stumble to second home defeat

HARLOW TOWN 1, WYCOMBE WANDERERS 3

NOT even the arrival of a midweek signing from Enfield, Bobby Harding, could prevent Harlow from descending to their second home defeat of the season at Epping on Saturday.

The advent of Harding and the lesser Isthmian opposition of Wycombe into the arena should have heralded a reassurance-boosting win for him and his contemporaries. But it was not to be.

Although Harding provided several glimpses of his potential value to the team, he too often stumbled inconspicuously into the background. To be fair, his companions were no better, and for the first half at least Har-

low, although they were lacking in endeavour, wandered the field like characters without an author.

By this time, indifferent defensive covering had allowed Howard Kennedy to sneak the visitors the lead and Wycombe to dangle the game beyond Harlow's grasp.

Harlow tried desperately to breach the gap after the break, but it was Terry Glynn's goal, midway through the second half,

rather than Ian Wolstenholme's half-time pep talk that was to provide a higher stimulant of pride, passion and fire into Harlow's play.

If Harlow had performed in the same adventurous manner in the first three-quarters of the game as they did in the last, then the result would have resembled something approaching a massacre.

John Mackenzie soon cut the deficit, and as players queued up to receive chances — Tony Gough and Vic Clarke among them — it seemed certain that Harlow would at least confirm their league reputation as draw specialists.

However, something mightier than fate rebuked them, and to rub salt into the wound, Wycombe's Steve Long added a third in injury time.

Manager Wolstenholme will probably be the first to admit that his more polished outfit should have overcome lowly Wycombe, but with so many new faces and the comparatively humble surroundings of Epping, Harlow were not more than strangers in their own home and their predicament was worsened by the absence of Owen Griffiths.

Certainly, when Harlow's readjustment period is over they will again be a force to be reckoned with.

Harlow Town: P. Kitson; R. Wickenden, V. Clarke, P. Carretta; T. Gough, A. Carrington, J. Mackenzie, M. Mann, G. Parker, R. Hardinge, P. Twigg. Sub.: F. Flack.

Wycombe Wanderers: G. Lester; P. Birdseye, G. Borg, R. Davis, K. Mead, R. Dell, S. Long, H. Kennedy, T. Glenn, G. Toll, S. Hardwick. Sub.: M. Keen.

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Toll, P. Miles, E. Jack, P. West. Subs: G Stanmore, R. Clarke.

Before that game Wycombe Wanderers Reserves improved their standing in the Suburban League with two successive draws after a succession of defeats.

Their last loss came on Saturday, September 15, when they fell 4-1 to Harrow Borough Reserves. At one stage they led with a goal by Steve Toll but their inexperience showed and they were well beaten in the end.

However in their next two matches they earned 1-1 draws. Gary Toll scored the goal that earned that result on Tuesday, September 16, against Hounslow Reserves, while a late score by Mick Holifield gave them a draw at home to Wembley on Satur-